

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00846 292004Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 281513Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4999
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0382

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 0846

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR TODMAN WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINR, MOPS, CU, UR, VE, BR, BB

SUBJ:CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 075151(NOTAL), BRIDGETOWN 0841 (NOTAL)

1. BARBADOS TAKES NO OFFICIAL STAND ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT
IN AFRICA, BUT SEEMS RESISTANT TO ATTEMPTS TO CATEGORIZE
CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA AND RHODESIA
IN THE SAME LIGHT. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION MARCH 25 PRIME
MINISTER TOM ADAMS SAID CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA BEING
FOLLOWED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN BARBADOS. DURING MY
FORMAL CALL ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER HENRY FORDE TO
DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED REFTEL, FORDE SAID ANGOLA INVOLVED
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A COLONIAL WAR, A CIRCUMSTANCE HE APPARENTLY CITED IN
JUSTIFICATION OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT THERE. FORDE ALSO
SAID UNITA FORFEITED THE SUPPORT OF MODERATE THIRD WORLD
LEADERS WHEN IT ACCEPTED SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS.

2. FORDE SAID THE GOB POSITION ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN
THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT WOULD DEPEND ON THE FATE OF THE

ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PLAN. THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER NOTED PUBLICLY LAST WEEK THAT THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOB.

3. FORDE SAID CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WAS DIFFERENT AGAIN SINCE SUCH INVOLVEMENT HAD CLEAR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN--SPECIFICALLY FOR BELIZE, WHERE A QUESTIONABLE BORDER AND ETHNIC QUESTIONS WERE ALSO AT STAKE. NEVERTHELESS FORDE CONSIDERED CUBAN ACTIONS IN THE HORN AS NOT DEFENSIBLE. FORDE SAID HE COULD HAVE A FORMAL CABINET POSITION ON THE QUESTION BY MARCH 30 IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE USG.
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